

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

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### Volume 44 - Issue 03 - Friday, September 26, 2008

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# THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

ROSE-HULMAN.EDU/THORN/

VOLUME 44, ISSUE 3

## News Briefs

By Andrew Klusman

### European Union bans baby food imports

Following a tainted milk scandal in China that has killed four babies and sickened over 12,000 Chinese children, the European Union has banned the importation of baby food containing Chinese milk. The European Union's executive arm, the European Commission, said that they would ban all Chinese milk-containing baby food. The Chinese milk problem was discovered two weeks ago, when milk powder from the Sanlu Group was found to contain melamine, an industrial chemical, and is used in making plastics. The EU will now be testing any imported product that contains more than 15 percent of milk powder.

### Russia offers help to Venezuela

On Thursday, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said that Russia is looking at the possibility of helping Venezuela to develop a nuclear energy program. In addition to the nuclear energy program, Venezuela has in recent years shown great cooperation with Russia. Over the past two years over \$4.4 billion worth of arms deals have been signed. Russia has also taken advantage of this situation, stepping up cooperation with Venezuela. This month Russia sent strategic bomber planes to Venezuela, their furthest mission since the Cold War. In addition to that, this week Russia also deployed two ships to Venezuela, the Northern Fleet's Pyotr Veliky and the Admiral Chabanenko, a battle cruiser and an anti-submarine warfare ship, respectively, making this show of arms the greatest deployment of Russian military power to the Western Hemisphere since the Cold War.

### General Motors to build new engine plant

In a sign of good news for the state of Michigan, General Motors has announced plans to build a \$370 million engine plant in the city of Flint. In a ceremony announcing the plant, it was announced that the plant will build the 1.4-liter, four-cylinder engine for the rechargeable Chevrolet Volt, and a turbo-charged engine that will be in the Chevrolet Cruze, a new compact car that will be built in Ohio. The location for the plant was negotiated in last year's contract between the United Auto Workers and GM, and came in exchange for a lower wage for some new hires, in addition to the transfer of GM's retiree health care liability from GM to a union-run trust fund, according to UAW Vice President Cal Rapson.

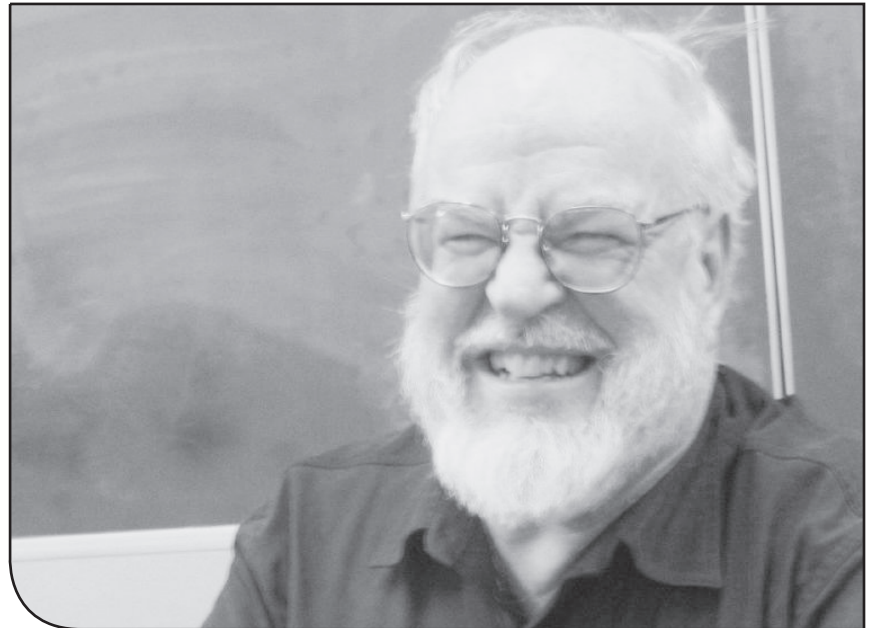
Scott Gallmeier

News Editor

On Thursday September 25, 2008, Rose-Hulman hosted "America's first webmaster," Bebo White. Mr. White came to Rose to give a lecture entitled "The Once and Future Web," a catalogue of the development of the early Internet and the development of the Internet in the coming years. This was the conclusion of a multi-day visit on Mr. White's part, consisting of a meeting with the Web & Society Interest Group on the evening of Wednesday, September 24, 2008, and speaking at a luncheon in the afternoon of the 28th. Mr. White's visit was sponsored by the Computer Science & Software Engineering Department, the Humanities and Social Sciences Department, and the Web & Society Interest Group.

The lecture offered by Mr. White, was designed to relate the progress of the Internet up to the point where it is today and help to develop a concept of what the Internet is developing into over the coming years. He points out that support had originally been directed towards various file retrieving structures, often designed to be like the file structuring of

a personal computer. This can be compared to the view Mr. White holds of what the future of the Internet will be, one which will more closely resemble the human experience. By this, Mr. White means that the experiences of the Internet will begin to develop into a form similar to that of "SecondLife," a popular on-line community in which people have characters that interact with others in a virtual reality, creating another life for people to explore in. A big issue that Mr. White feels relates to college campuses across America is the place that the Internet has for the academic community. He feels as though the Web is trying to find its place on its own, developing and responding



BeboWhite.com

Bebo White, America's first webmaster, visited Rose-Hulman Wednesday, September 24 through Thursday, September 25 for a series of town-hall style meetings with various groups on campus leading up to his "The Once & Future Web."

ing to outside pressures and adjusting appropriately.

Mr. White is referred to as the "First Webmaster," even though in his own words "I truly dislike the term 'Webmaster.'" Mr. White said that he felt that this title was inappropriate because, "It's impossible for one person to have all the skills to operate a website of any complex-

ity." Mr. White had originally worked with the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and while there had worked on a file transfer program between SLAC and other high energy physics research centers. He then, while on sabbatical at CERN, he came into further research and the eventual development of hyper-text transfer protocol (HTTP).

## Men's soccer ranks eighth in Great Lakes region

Tim Boyer

Copy Editor

Following the exciting 2-1 overtime victory over Transylvania last Saturday, the men's soccer team has earned a regional ranking from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA). After 16 straight conference wins for the Pioneers, Rose-Hulman handed Transylvania its first conference loss in two years.

Earning a win over a strong program garnered attention from the NSCAA, earning Rose a rank of eight out of the top ten teams in the Great Lakes region. The Engineers have won five consecutive matches and outscored the opposition by an 11-2 margin during the month of September. In addition, eight players

have combined for Rose-Hulman's 13 goals this season.

Last Saturday, junior electrical engineering major Phil Meyer scored the goal in the 99th minute (less than two minutes left in the first overtime) to secure the win for Rose, knocking off three time Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) champion, Transylvania University.

The Pioneers struck early, taking the lead 16 minutes into the match. Rose responded quickly, with sophomore civil engineering major Corbin Clow heading the ball into the goal only five minutes later. Overall, Rose outshot Transylvania by a margin of 12-8.

The Engineers look to extend their winning streak this weekend when they take on Spalding and HCAC foe Hanover.



Rose Hulman News

Joe Salisbury, a sophomore software engineering student, dribbles for the Rose-Hulman Fightin' Engineers men's soccer team, ranked eighth in the region.

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# Blackout Sudoku

By Melissa Brumbaugh

Use the letters: B L O D R I V E S to fill in the missing spaces. Make sure to not repeat any letter in any row, column, or 3X3 square. Do not be fooled into assigning black spaces as letters, for a single black space could be up to 3 different letters at once.

	S			E	R	B		
V		R				I		
	I					E		V
			I		S		B	
E		L	R				D	
O				B		V	S	
				R	L		I	
L				S	O			

# Strt Txtn’!

By Andrew Klusman

Instructions: Convert each word from its keypad numbers.

2442536

326459

5328873

7872643

776337767



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The Rose Thorn

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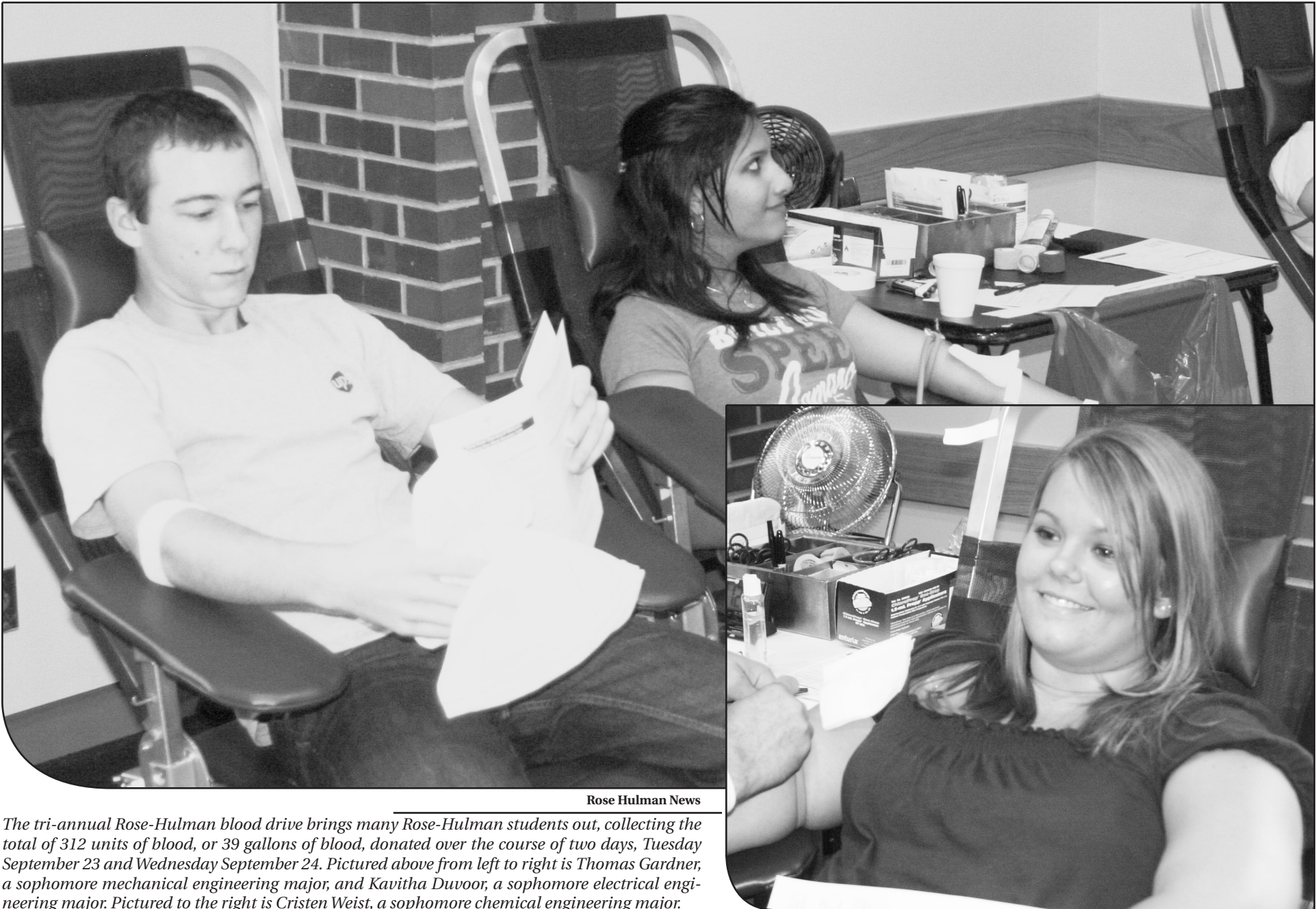
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# Rose blood drive draws crowd



*The tri-annual Rose-Hulman blood drive brings many Rose-Hulman students out, collecting the total of 312 units of blood, or 39 gallons of blood, donated over the course of two days, Tuesday September 23 and Wednesday September 24. Pictured above from left to right is Thomas Gardner, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, and Kavitha Duvoor, a sophomore electrical engineering major. Pictured to the right is Cristen Weist, a sophomore chemical engineering major.*



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# Heroes season premiere: Does “Villains” meet the old standard?

**Ben Collins**  
*Entertainment  
Editor*

\*SPOILER CONTENT! READ AT OWN DISCRETION!

“Heroes,” to be blunt and to the point, has been a show of great promise to the general audience in its past two seasons.

Season one as a stand-alone series presented a realization of what long-time comic book fans and the average viewer have wanted for a long time: a show about superheroes that is entertaining, thought provoking and simply a good show to watch. After such a stellar opening, season two had expectations to meet since the season one finale. If they didn’t deliver the same iconic entertainment, potentially one of the greatest shows of television history would fall by the wayside.

Season two left many people feeling disappointed with the series; this was most likely due to the poorly timed writer’s strike which ended another NBC favorite show, “Scrubs.” The main issue came from the brevity of the season and the rushed effort to bring the season to a close. Even with this setback, it was still an exciting finale that begged the viewer to watch more in season three.

This past Monday, season three premiered with two episodes, a move that appeared to be a message of pride from NBC to the fans, as they were bringing back a fan favorite. As the last “To Be Continued...” rolled



A decent start to “Heroes” season three. It fumbles in some ways but it gives promise to an exciting season.

across the screen, I jumped up in excitement at the startling new facts revealed even within the last seconds of the show. There was more to be excited about as even days later, people are still talking about the new elements introduced for this season.

Within the first two episodes of season three, or “Volume 3: Villains,” several huge changes to the “Heroes” universe were introduced. The first and most important is the findings of Dr. Suresh. The powers exhibited in the show can be given by a simple injection made from a hero’s adrenaline. Powers now

are essentially up for grabs and even Suresh has gained several super-traits.

Sylar’s true ability is also finally revealed to the audience and showing how he develops his power. Even the supposed Nikki Sanders, now appears to be Tracy Strauss, possesses a new power possibly relating back to the new theory behind adrenal gland-driven powers.

The next turn of events came from the introduction of a now alternate future Peter Petrelli. His main purpose in returning was to change, the future but with the shooting of his brother and subsequent displacement

of himself, he has wrought an all new, potentially worse, future. To remove the current-timeline-Peter from the situation so as to move freely, this future Peter placed his present counterpart into one of the new, more dangerous antagonists to which we apply the season’s name, “Villians.”

Taking in all this information in the two-hour premiere was a hefty task, both episodes dumped off a lot of new content for the series and were also bringing some closure to loose ends from the previous seasons. However, the resolutions offered

were so rushed and condensed that it feels like these episodes had the sole purpose of giving reparations to fans; there was such a rush of negative opinion concerning the show after season two that it was almost expected that they would try to console angry and disillusioned fans. This might have been the only way to accomplish this goal, but it still was infuriatingly fast-paced.

The most promising attribute of the show is the presence of the new and apparently very powerful villains. Sylar as the main antagonist was well-developed and lived its role out in season one and served an adequate purpose in season two, if not underused for the better part of his on-air time. Already in this season opener, Sylar has been taken down again and his station needs to be filled by an equally powerful, if not psychotic, character, and luckily we’ve been given three, each with recognizable comic-book-based powers. This seems like a desperate ploy to push the heroes together into an a Justice League of sorts. This would complete the series in some ways, but it could also lead down a dark path in the writing; the possibility of villain-of-the-week syndrome seems to be coming ever more apparent.

With the coming weeks, the series will hopefully take on old life again and the faults of these first episodes will be overshadowed by the quality of the rest of the season.

## Cook’s newest is same old offensive comedy

**Alison Farbe**  
*Tufts Daily*

Prepare to be offended, ladies. Howard Deutch’s new film, “My Best Friend’s Girl,” moves quickly to disturb and outrage its intended audience: the romantic comedy patron. Although some Dane Cook fans will be satisfied by his go-to character (the obnoxious frat boy), most will feel violated by the film’s transparent objective to let Dane Cook act like himself and its blatant disregard for human decency.

Alongside Cook, “My Best Friend’s Girl” stars Kate Hudson and Jason Biggs. Cook plays Tank, a deliberately evil take on Will Smith’s character in 2005’s “Hitch.” Tank’s lucrative hobby is using his skill of being a huge jerk to make women realize that there really are no better men out there and that they should settle with the ones they have left. The movie’s most offensive moments occur when Tank is in full-mode on his dates with these women. One such gem occurs when Tank says to his date: “We start with a blowjob. Some girls think of it as a chore, but I turn it into a tutorial.”

The film adheres to the same



filmsupdates.blogspot.com

strict outline present in most recent romantic comedies. It quickly becomes apparent, however, that this outline is consciously being followed when Tank reveals his “game” and describes how he has to set up a “meet cute” with each of the women he plays. Following every rule in the romantic comedy handbook, Jason Biggs plays Tank’s pathetic best friend and cousin, Dustin, and Kate Hudson plays Alexis, the love interest of both men. Dustin is stuck in the “friend zone” with Alexis, so he promptly hires Tank to take Alexis out on the worst date of her life. The central conflict of

the film is based on the balance between Tank’s supposed need to be a “bad guy,” his friendship with Dustin and his newfound — but completely expected — love for Alexis.

The main problem with this film is not its vulgarity, which can be, at times, very entertaining, but rather its inability to make its audience feel any connection with its three main characters. A successful romantic comedy requires the audience to want things to work out well for its characters. In this film, Cook’s semi-sexy portrayal of Tank is funny, if you’re into his type of humor, but it is difficult to foster any real emotional attachment to him. Deutch obviously attempts to make him likeable, but it is hard to like anyone who is that big of a jerk.

Dustin is meant to be the “nice guy,” but the Jason Biggs “nice guy” everybody loved in “American Pie” and “Saving Silverman” has been transformed into a pathetic stalker-type loser. The film’s most frustrating character, however, is Hudson’s. Alexis’ motives are confusing when she wavers between wanting a boy-toy and somebody who really cares about her. Hudson is

charming in most of her films, and although she is absolutely stunning in this one, there is never that a-ha moment where the audience falls in love with, or even likes her.

The film is much improved by a surprisingly good soundtrack and its two supporting roles. The first genuinely enjoyable moment, besides the occasional belly-laugh from Cook, is when Lizzy Caplan (who played Janice Ian in “Mean Girls”) appears as Ami. She is sharp and quirky and brightens up each scene in which she appears. Alec Baldwin plays Tank’s father and is often even more offensive than Tank. Baldwin’s character is an ironic twist on a women’s studies professor and plays a more extreme version of Cook’s character. The moments when

### Releases this Week:

#### Music Releases:

- Flecktones  
*Jingle All The Way*
- Ben Folds  
*Way Too Normal*
- Tom Morello  
*The Fabled City*
- James Taylor  
*Covers*

#### DVD/Blu-ray Releases:

- Iron Man
- Forgetting Sarah Marshal

#### Console Game Release:

- Star Wars: The Force Unleashed

he is on screen are hilarious, but it becomes very obvious to the audience that he only goes to such extremes because he is Alec Baldwin and he can get away with it. Nonetheless, there are some outrageously funny scenes brought to the audience courtesy of Baldwin.

“My Best Friend’s Girl” is not a complete waste of time due to Cook’s ability to make people laugh, but it is just a bad movie. Almost every person in the theater laughed at some point or another, but everybody left with the same underwhelmed feeling. Fortunately for the producers, the film is sufficiently cliché and offensive that audiences won’t remember it by the time the next run-of-the-mill Dane Cook movie gets a green light.

# Big trouble

**Nick Easter**

*Guest Writer*

*[Editor's Note: This is an email I received from a friend over the summer. I felt that it covered some pertinent topics that we, as college students, run across during the year. Enjoy! -Jim]*

I don't like this type of society that I have walked into. I prefer to be the geek that's inside me, the awkward one to sit around and share good quotes or videos for a choking laugh, and wear my chemically burned clothes with pride to show that, although dangerous, I enjoy my work.

I sent you a text message earlier saying that I'm afraid this place *[Editor's Note: by the way, he's not talking about Rose.]* is changing me for the worse. I think that I'm going to start avoiding what I don't like anymore. I'm not really a party guy, I think you know that. Yes, I like to drink on a blue moon (which I now understand your stance on, but that in a couple minutes) and talk. I don't dance and grind my crotch into some girl to sim-

ulate dry humping to hip-hop music. I've tried it, ended up in a sandwich of women; not for me. One, it feels wrong to do and I feel guilty ("Oh no, that's okay, it's just dancing, it doesn't matter you have a girlfriend." No, it's not really okay). Two, what enjoyment is there? I got slightly aroused; so it's okay to pop a boner onto some girl now? Has that become acceptable? I thought we were hiding those since like, middle school. WTF! But, I've seen people dance, and sometimes it is fun to watch, because it's nice to see some friends really having fun with what they're doing. In context, some people really shine with enjoyment and it feels somewhat infectious.

Also, I'm amazed that peer pressure still exists. We're adults now! Aren't we? Are we still kids? I went to Toys R' Us recently, and it was fun and nostalgic; so are we just big kids that can drink legally? "Drink. If you come in, you need to drink!" "No, that's okay." "Noo, no, drink! Drink! You need to drink." "No, that's okay, I'm driving later."

"When?" "Just later." I had offered to drive some more genuine friends home after the party instead of making them walk in the dark. Later that night, I had glanced at a mini-keg of beer. I picked it up, read it, looked the label over and set it down. The hosts took it as interest, but I said no. They filled me a cup and said drink. I stared at it and then dumped it in the sink in front of them. At this point I was boiling. I don't care if you're drunk, you are you. I know you think people change, and they do, but they are just themselves without reserve or inhibition, with the layers of civilization peeled back. We are very ugly creatures sometimes, yet drinking really doesn't need to be present to see it. So, after they made booing noises as I poured out the cup, crumpled it and handed it back to them to throw away, they responded with, "Aw come on, you should drink." At this point, much to my current anger I, which I feel was righteously deserved, vented with my 'pissed off outside'

voice with a big "F\*\*\* YOU" and "DON'T TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO DRINK!" Of course, one of them was the same bad friend who had used a tobacco hoo-kah and passed it to a drunken friend who didn't realize what it was and inhaled. Later, she was quite upset that she had smoked, as she had never smoked before. I felt insulted then that a friend would do such a thing to another friend. The same guy and a suitemate pressured me the next night. Both of them insulted me and, I feel, disrespected our friendship. Drunk or not, that insult will remain. Oddly enough, some older guys came by later and offered me a drink, when I said no they nodded and were fine with it. Odd how that works out: people who are not friends means no pressure; drunk friends somehow means okay to pressure.

To end my tale of that wretched night, a drunken friend had run off in a thunderstorm when we were trying to get him ready for bed. Getting the trash can, bags, water, you know, just the

general stuff to help a drunken person survive the night. He ran off in a thunderstorm and lied about how he was in his apartment. We eventually convinced him to come back with the help of a girl sultrily purring "come back, I miss you." Well, kind of, he darted when he was just outside the apartments which lead to about three guys looking around for him in the down-pour and lightning. I was then a very wet, unhappy camper and as well felt disrespected by that friend as well. Drunk or not, he is responsible for his actions.

I understand your dislike of the liquid sin we like to ingest: a poison to society and an evil that cannot be destroyed as it once has been attempted. However, I do not feel too deterred from my method of drinking, well somewhat. I no longer desire to be the smashed, stumbling me, but just the buzzed and loosened-tongue version of me who drinks his Bailey's. Mm, I'm going to crack open a new bottle of Bailey's! Thank you liquor for my rage!

Dr. House was on Jeopardy...

That's right, we're missing content! Want to write for us? Send an e-mail to [Thorn@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:Thorn@rose-hulman.edu)

## Things to... Do in the Haute, cheaply. iTunes is "genius"

**Erin Parker**

*Guest Writer*

### 1. Parks.

There are many parks around Terre Haute that provide cheap fun. Deming Park is close by and has lots of space to play "frolf" (Frisbee golf for the uninformed), or have a cookout. Hawthorne Park, located directly behind campus, has light hiking and also relatively cheap campgrounds for a fun weekend off campus.

### 2. Movies.

There are several movie theaters throughout the Terre Haute area. The Meadows Theater shows older movies no longer in most theaters for only \$2. The Indiana Theater, built in 1922 in the style of Spanish Baroque, has a unique atmosphere that doubles as a movie theater and as a theatre. The Kerasotes Theaters also have a \$5 club available to anyone.

### 3. Museums.

Several museums including the Clabber Girl Museum, Holocaust Museum, and Swopes Art Museum will not only satisfy boredom but will be intellectually stimulating as well.

### 4. Crusin' the 'Bash.

A tradition wildly observed throughout Terre

Haute. 'Bashin,' as it is more commonly called, consists of either driving up and down Wabash Avenue, or sitting in the Kroger parking lot.

### 5. Coffee Shops.

There are several small coffee shops around the Haute. Java Haute is close by and provides a place to study or hang out with friends. Coffee Grounds has several occasions for "Open Mic Night" and local bands or artists to perform on a stage. Both locations also offer free Wi-Fi for patrons.

### 6. Bowling & Skating.

Terre Haute has several bowling alleys and bowling leagues that are available for you to join. The local skating rink is very nicely priced and a lot of fun to pretend you are eight-years-old again.

### 7. Animals.

Terre Haute Humane Society always welcomes visitors to come and play with their animals who thoroughly enjoy the time spent. If you prefer something more exotic, the Exotic Feline Rescue Center has over 150 lions, tigers, and other felines of the jungle.

### 8. Walking.

If all else fails, a good walk around campus or the mall will not only keep you occupied but also allows you to get a little exercise during your limited free time here at Rose.

**Tim Boyer**

*Copy Editor*

Well, of course they want to sell you something. But they help you find and appreciate things you didn't know or forgot you had.

iTunes new feature in version 8.0, Genius, is, well, genius. I'm not quite sure how they make it work, but it works pretty well. The basic idea of the new feature is that you open iTunes, select a song in your library, and on the right side, similar to the old mini store, songs appear that Apple thinks you will like, based on the selected song.

But iTunes has always been trying to sell you music. Perhaps the more impressive part of the new feature is the one that uses the music you already have. With that same song selected, you can click a button underneath the new right-hand-side area and iTunes will make a playlist full of songs you already possess ('own' is a dangerous word), based on that original song.

Personally, I find this very useful considering I choose the

music I listen to in a moment based on my mood. I'm not much of an album listener and therefore construct many playlists, but even that has gotten old for me. This new feature has found songs that fit well together, but not necessarily follow a high or low play count.

To be absolutely honest, I thought the feature was only pretty cool until I found my new favorite song of all time: "White Daisies Passing" by Rocky Votolato; check it out, it's awesome. It is a song that I listen to multiple times a day and it still hasn't gotten old.

No worries, all the information isn't stored on your computer. When you first download the new version, you will have to connect to the Apple server which will read your library and send information back to your computer for iTunes to use. Additionally, when you add new music, you will have to update again.

All in all, if you are looking to explore your library and find new music you already have or just forgot about, this is a tool I would suggest trying.



# Ich bin keine Straßenmädchen

**Christine Price**

*Opinions Editor*

For five months, I had the privilege of studying in Germany five months. I learned a lot of things—how to speak a bit of German, enough about net-working to understand the last panel of the “Redwall” XKCD, and more about Finnish culture than I was planning. I learned something else unexpected: How to be mistaken for a woman of negotiable affection. While I would describe all the experiences as more amusing than scary, it isn’t really something I would like to repeat. So, Rose women, here are some helpful travel tips to help you avoid a situation that is potentially embarrassing for both parties.

1. It doesn’t matter what you wear, or how you look. You could dress like me, in some baggy jeans, a zipped up ski jacket, some hiking boots so old that the sole is coming off, no make-up, and a messy pony tail. Or you could dress like the prostitutes in Barcelona, in tighter jeans and nice, but obviously cheap tops. Or the woman in Amsterdam who couldn’t

really be described as “dressed.” Dressing sensibly helps, but it doesn’t protect you completely. 2. Know bus schedules. If, say, you are standing in front of a hotel at two in the morning, at a bus stop that doesn’t have a shelter, waiting for a night bus



<http://www.poleexercise.co.uk>

*Tall, lace-up boots not required. Who knew?*

that, as it turns out, doesn’t run on weekdays, you may look like something other than a confused tourist.

3. Talking to strangers is usually fine. You can have really interesting, three hour conversations with a lady on a French

train that speaks five languages. You can meet a guy at a farmer’s market in a small town in Southern Germany who happens to know your great aunt. But if, at four o’clock in the morning, as you walk from the bus station to the train station that has an attached hotel, for goodness sake don’t say hello to anybody that approaches you. Don’t shake their hand. If you do, there is a good chance the stranger will pull your hand in the direction of the hotel, and you will have to explain that, no, you are not out on business, you are simply attempting to catch a train to Luxembourg.

4. If you are on a train in the early hours of the morning, and a sort of sketchy man is the only other person to board the train, and asks if he can sit in the seats across from you, say no. If he does sit in those seats, there is a chance he may try to talk you into some sort of long-distance “arrangement” that involves “getting freaky.”

Just follow these simple rules, and you will have a wonderful, confusion free trip abroad!

## Letter to the Editor

The economic crisis our country now faces is certainly turning up the heat on the election. AIG, the largest insurance company in the world, is the latest company to be bailed out by the Federal Reserve Board, which lent \$85 billion to AIG alone. Add this company to the list of other banks and government-sponsored enterprises facing problems and reality starts to set in—this is a big issue that won’t just “go away.”

Bailing out a private company not under its purview, such as AIG, is both extraordinary and historic for the Federal Reserve. After all, the Fed serves two purposes: setting monetary policy, and banking supervision and regulation. The unprecedented bailout of AIG gives the government a 79.9% equity interest in the company (read government ownership of a private company). The government also bailed out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, two hybrid financial institutions exempt from laws that apply to other financial institutions and backed by the implicit promise of government support with taxpayers’ money (read socialistic institutions).

Many politicians, pundits and even ordinary people are blaming the credit crunch and high mortgage foreclosure rate on market failure. These same people are in favor of the government stepping in to bail out creditors and borrowers at the expense of taxpayers. However, make no mistake, the fault of our current economic crisis lies with the government.

Walter Williams, an econo-

mist from George Mason University, points to the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977. This bill intimidated lenders into offering credit throughout their entire market and discouraged them from restricting their credit services to low-risk markets.

“Something tells me that these two are no better than the rest of Washington that’s trying to sell us out.”

That’s exactly what has happened with the current subprime mortgage crisis. Lenders were encouraged by the government to lend to individuals deemed “subprime”, those least able to handle such a loan. Coupled with the Federal Reserve artificially keeping interest rates low, you have a situation where builders and buyers have incentives to continue to buy and build. That was the cause of the housing bubble and ultimately its collapse.

Unfortunately, the housing bubble didn’t last. Lenders made high-risk “liar loans” in order to allow people to purchase housing that they could not afford. With the expectation that housing prices would continue to increase, lenders and borrowers faced no problems.

However, when prices began to fall, many were left with negative home equity and the banks were in trouble.

Had the government allowed lenders to choose who they lend to based on statistical data and the ability of an individual to repay the loan, we would not be in our current situation. Instead, government stepped in with efforts to provide everyone with homes (certainly not its job) and ultimately created what is actually a necessary market correction.

With an unpopular current administration, many are looking to McCain and Obama’s plans to handle this. Franklin Raines, the former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer who made millions while mismanaging Fannie Mae, serves as an economic adviser to Obama. John McCain’s campaign manager owned a firm that was paid \$15,000 a month by Freddie Mac. Something tells me these two are no better than the rest of Washington that’s trying to sell us out.

Instead, we face another pitfall of ignorance. We are turning to government to get us out of a problem that it initially created. As Congress moves to bailout lenders and borrowers who made poor decisions with what is being deemed as the “mother of all bailouts”, incentives are being created for people to continue to make unwise decisions. We are fighting fire with fire and we are all getting burned.

Matthew Bryant  
*Guest Writer*

## SERIOUSLY. *Mark Minster*

Every year in some of my classes I ask students to write any questions they have on scraps of paper and submit them anonymously. Odds are good that many of them have a few questions they’re shy to ask in class for fear of looking foolish. (Similarly, in cities worldwide, tourists pretend not to be, preferring to get lost on their own rather than ask natives for directions.) Writing out questions allows students to think about what they’re learning, and to ask questions without losing precious street cred. (That’s “lab cred,” here.)

Most questions are serious: What are the traits of a good thesis statement? Why do we have to do research papers? How do you cite a government document you found using EBSCOhost? Do I really need to do these readings?

About a quarter of the questions, however, are entirely capricious. And for reasons that have to do with basic flaws in my character, I feel compelled to answer them all, in writing. Here, for the wider audience of Rose-Hulman, are some of those questions and my answers.

*Why is it so hard to wake up before 9:30 for your class?*

If I had to guess, I’d say either you’re overworked or irresponsible or just very sociable. I suspect videogames might be involved. I had a little love affair with Oblivion on the XBOX before I got over it.

*Mac or Windows?*

Don’t make me choose. Mac is so pretty and their version of PowerPoint is way cooler than PowerPoint. Windows is mine beyond my choosing. Windows is my wife, Mac my mistress. According to Umberto Eco, Windows is Protestantism, Mac is Catholicism. I’m Episcopalian, which means I like both.

*How would you protect yourself from the Sirens (not wax in the ears or binding yourself to the mast)?*

I’d out-scream them and then punch them in the kidneys. Then I’d call up my son Telemachus and tell him to get his butt over here, because there’s some hottie mermaid-types ripe for the smooching, and it’s about time that little wussie becomes a real man.

*What’s the meaning of life?*

42, if you can believe what you read.

*Do you have stairs in your house?*

This question, maybe more than any other, cracks me up. What a weird thing to want to know. You’re as odd as I am.

Yes. My cats love them. They scratch at them. I use stairs to pile up things that are downstairs which I want to take upstairs but haven’t yet mustered up the courage or strength to take. Sometimes my dog and I play this game where I throw the ball upstairs, and while she chases it, I run to hide downstairs, and then I throw it again, but throw it downstairs, which tricks her, and then I run upstairs.

When I was a kid I used to throw a tennis ball against the stairs in the basement. If I caught it without it bouncing on the floor, that was an out. If it bounced once that was a single, twice a double, and over my

head it was a homerun.

I had friends, I swear.

*Can I bring a grill to class and BBQ chicken? Can JD bring a grill to class and BBQ chicken?*

You mean can he bring a grill and bring BBQ chicken? Or do you mean can he actually grill and barbecue the chicken? Yes to the first, no to the second. Health hazards and all of that.

*Which is better, a good movie or a good book?*

It’s easier to make out during a good movie, so that’s pretty much a done deal.

*Why?*

You can learn a lot about a person by the way they answer this question. Do they say, “Because.” Do they say, “Why not?” Your “Because” person is likely a closet Nazi. Your “Why not” likely can’t decide what shirt to wear on any given day.

Some people simply refuse to answer. They’re tools.

*Is the glass half-full or half-empty?*

I say, why are we using a glass when we could use a stein or a pitcher?

*How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?*

I figure it like this. We’re assuming the groundhog-thing in question *can* actually chuck wood, right? I mean, we all know he can’t, given the whole no-opposable-thumbs fiasco. But let’s pretend he can. I figure that little bugger is pretty strong. He looks strong, standing there in his little brown fat suit by the side of the highway. You have to figure the foot-pounds, the weight of wood, depending on the kind of tree we’re talking about, how fresh the wood is, whether it’s been treated. You gotta factor in the wind, the barometric pressure, the altitude.

A cord? Maybe two? He’s gonna get tired at some point.

*Can we go on a class trip to Holiday World?*

No.

*Do you always wear a jacket/ vest?*

Always. And let me tell you, it makes beach volleyball and synchronized swimming a real chore.

I have noticed, however, that professors say hello to me when I’m wearing a tie or a jacket or (Zeus and Hera forbend!) both. I can’t abide the tie. It’s a knot around the throat, a simulacra of a noose, a faux phallus, a signifier of patriarchy, and really, if you think about, the freaky thing serves no purpose. It doesn’t keep you warm or protect your sternum or xiphoid process. It just dangles there, reminding you how tenuous life is, given the fragility of the trachea, the softness of skin.

A jacket, on the other hand, offers warmth, shelter. It’s got those pads that make English teachers look like they have shoulders. If tweedy, it connotes erudition. Or pretentiousness. Wait, no. Erudition.

**Have opinions?**

**Send them to  
opinions@  
rose-hulman.edu**



# Athlete of the week

## Katy Zawadski



**Tim Boyer**

*Copy Editor*

During her freshman year, the women's tennis team had a record of 1-8, their only win coming at the end of the season. Now, senior biomedical engineering major Katy Zawadski is in the midst of her best personal singles season at 6-1, contributing to Rose's now impressive 8-1 record.

The women Engineers are 5-1 in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC), with their only loss coming from Manchester College. This weekend, the women's tennis team heads to Oberlin, Ohio, for the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Regional Tournament to face other teams in the area.

Katy took the time to answer some questions for the Rose Thorn.

### **Rose Thorn: How long have you been playing tennis?**

**Katy Zawadski:** I started playing tennis when I was 5 years old, after playing for awhile I decided to take a few years off but started playing again in middle school.

### **RT: Tennis is currently having the best season in recent years. What has changed since you were a freshman?**

**KZ:** My freshman year, we were in a different conference, and it was much harder. Sophomore year we switched to a Conference that is perfect for us and that has given us a lot of opportunities to compete and improve. We have four seniors on the team this year so we have really gotten to know each other and what each person needs to succeed. Our team is a great bunch of girls and we all get along really well, which only helps us on the court.

### **RT: Is there a match that sticks out in your memory?**

**KZ:** The match I remember most during my time at Rose was during the conference tournament my sophomore year. We were playing Hanover and the match was very close. I had split sets and was losing the third set when I heard a teammate yell "It's all you, Katy!" I realized I was the last court playing and the teams were tied 4-4. If I lost, we were out of the tournament. After being down 5-1 in the third set and having several match points against me, I actually managed to pull out a win. To this day, I have no idea how I did it! After I won, the whole team ran on to the court yelling and cheering, it was a lot of fun!

### **RT: What's the most meaningful award or recognition that you've received?**

**KZ:** The most meaningful award I have gotten was "Best Mental Attitude." I was chosen for this because of the huge comeback I made in our conference match.

### **RT: How do you think the team will do this year?**

**KZ:** Our team is awesome! Even though we joke about how few numbers we have on our team, we are mighty. As long as we stay healthy, we will cause some trouble for the other conference teams. I wouldn't be surprised at all if we wind up on top again this year.

### **RT: How has participating in a varsity sport had an effect on your experience at Rose?**

**KZ:** Playing in a varsity sport has been a lot of fun. Sometimes it can make life more stressful when you have a lot of schoolwork and still have practice and matches, but it is always worth it in the end. I have made really good friends on the tennis

team and it's nice to be able to do something other than school every day!

### **RT: Do you have any plans on staying involved in tennis after Rose?**

**KZ:** After Rose, I have no official plans for staying involved in tennis. I will probably just try to get out and play whenever I can. Maybe I will find a team to play in wherever I end up.

### **RT: You've also earned a varsity letter for the Diving team. What attracts you to playing tennis more?**

**KZ:** Diving was a lot of fun, but I have played tennis longer. Tennis also allows for more team interaction. We are always talking and having fun while we play and practice.

### **RT: How does it feel to have your best personal record this season at 6-1 in singles?**

**KZ:** Honestly, I did not even know that I currently had my personal best record! Our team is just playing hard and having fun. If it gets us a great record, then that is even better. I have always liked doubles more than singles, so it had taken a lot of work to get to the point I am at in singles. I have learned to have more patience on the court, and I guess it is paying off!

## Engineer Scoreboard

### Women's Soccer 4-3 (0-1)

September 20

Transylvania University 3  
at Rose-Hulman 1

### Volleyball 11-6

September 19

Rose-Hulman 0  
vs. Heidelberg College 3

Rose-Hulman 3  
vs. Franklin College 0

September 20

Rose-Hulman 2  
vs. Gallaudet U. 3

Rose-Hulman 3  
vs. Anderson U. 0

September 24

Robert-Morris Springfield 1  
at Rose-Hulman 3

### Women's Golf

September 6-7

Indiana Intercollegiate Meet  
Bloomington, IN

10th of 14

### Women's Cross Country

September 19

Indiana Intercollegiate Meet  
Bloomington, IN

10th of 14

### Men's Cross Country

September 19

Indiana Intercollegiate Meet  
Bloomington, IN

8th of 15

### Men's Soccer 5-2 (1-0)

September 20

Transylvania University 1  
at Rose-Hulman 2

### Women's Tennis 8-1 (5-1)

September 20

Mt. St. Joseph 3  
at Rose-Hulman 6

Transylvania University 3  
at Rose-Hulman 6

September 21

Rose-Hulman 8  
at Bluffton University 1

Rose-Hulman 9  
at Defiance College 0

September 24

Oakland City U. 1  
at Rose-Hulman 8

### Football 2-1 (0-0)

September 20

Greenville College 25  
at Rose-Hulman 15

## Keith Crawford named swimming and diving coach

### Rose-Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology has named Keith Crawford as the fourth head men's and women's swimming and diving coach in school history, effective October 6.

Crawford comes to Rose-Hulman after six seasons at NCAA Division III Monmouth College in Illinois. He earned Men's Coach of the Year honors in the Midwest Conference in 2007 and 2008 after leading the team to second-place finishes.

At Monmouth, Crawford's squads recorded a total of nine individual and relay confer-

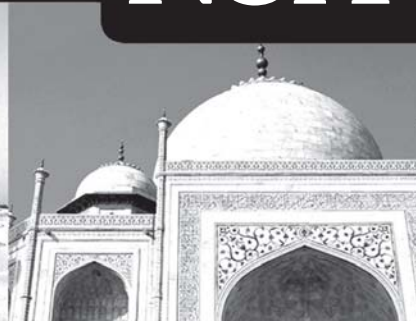
ence champions, while being recognized for their academic accomplishments by the College Swimming Coaches Association.

Prior to his time at Monmouth, Crawford earned a bachelor's with a double major in history and secondary education from Xavier University in 2001. He also completed a master's degree in recreation and sport management at Indiana State University in 2003.

Crawford takes over for Michael Caruso, who resigned in August following a six-year stint as head coach of the Fightin' Engineers.

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

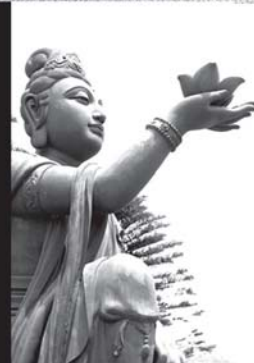
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Pop goes the...freshmen?

Noel Spurgeon  
She's Popping Like Popcorn

Monday, September 22, the first casualty in a tragic epidemic that would claim at least fifteen victims appeared. The yet-unidentified freshman collapsed on his way to the union, smoke pouring out of his ears accompanied by a smell eyewitness described as “a combination of flaming tires and Speed after IM football”. Moments later, the unfortunate young man was whisked away to an undisclosed location by uniformed personnel, leaving campus in an uproar. Some blamed the ARA, saying it was only a matter of time. Others pointed to an O-Chem lab gone wrong. Soon, students began collapsing all over campus, exhibiting many of the same symptoms as the unlucky freshman. Gradually, word trickled out that this freshman had fallen victim to Spontaneous Internal Combustion. (SIC)

SIC is a phenomenon that occurs when “the brain’s electrical activity reaches dangerous proportions, causing the grey matter to burst into flame,” according to Ivant Yurgrantmony, director of the Institute for Spontaneous Combustion Research in Reykjavik, Iceland. “It’s like an engine burning out—you just can’t use your brain that much without consequences.” Dr. Yurgrantmoney went on to add that “it [SIC] isn’t dangerous to passerby... combustion is confined to the skull and can stop within seconds, depending on the major of the victim.”

Researchers at the Institute point to several causes for this sudden outbreak on Rose’s campus. The stress of third week often causes an excess of electrical activity in the freshman brain, having not acquired the apathy of their older peers. Similarly, the high number of caffeinated beverages ingested during this week can cause overstimulation of the brain, especially when combined with all-night study sessions. The final possible cause of this blight is a troubling new condition known as “Creeper Madness”.

Victims of Creeper Madness are almost always male, and suffer from high levels of stress due to their concern with social image. Symptoms of Creeper Madness include sleeplessness, paranoia, excessive navel-gazing, and obsession with height of socks as related to length of shorts. Friends or acquaintances of anyone exhibiting these symptoms should confine the patient to all-male areas of campus and call mental health personnel as soon as possible.

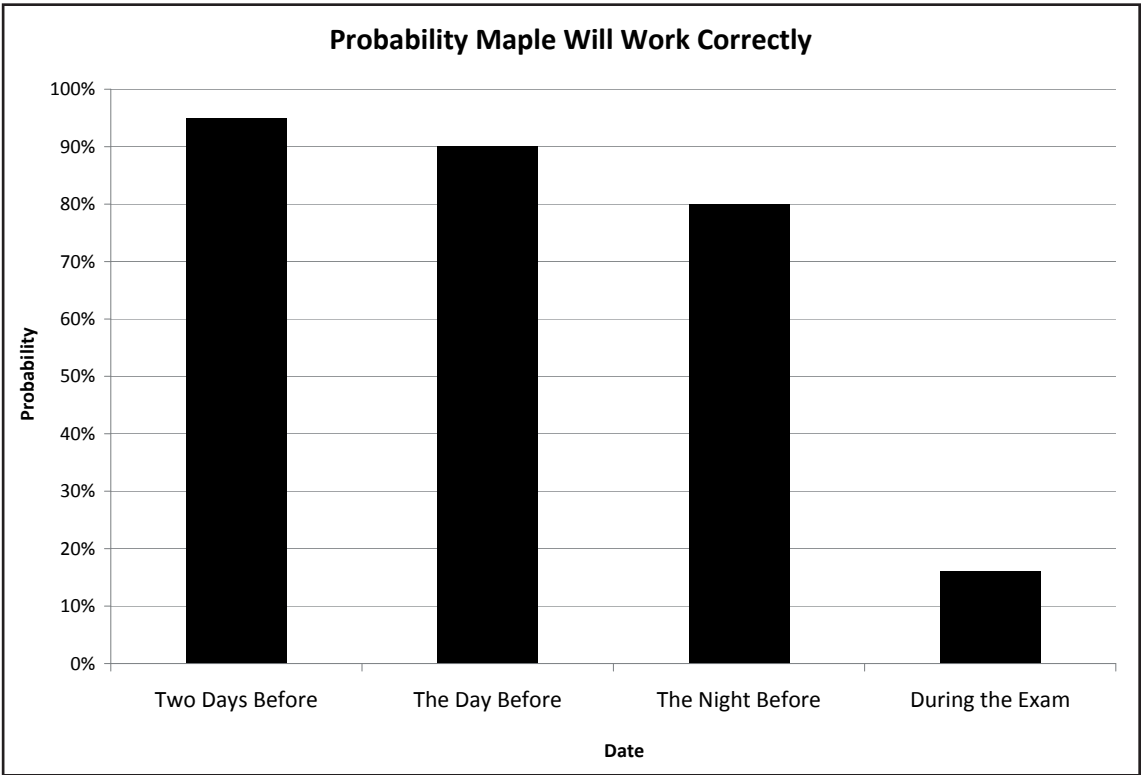
By raising awareness of Creeper Madness and identifying patients early, Rose-Hulman hopes to limit the number of SIC victims. However, simply because one is not suffering from Creeper Madness does not mean he or she is immune. Students should be aware of the following symptoms:

- Excessive heat emanating from the temples
- A burning smell during mental activity
- Difficulty concentrating
- An uncontrollable urge to swim
- Insatiable thirst

If a student exhibits one or more of these symptoms, they should take the following steps:

- Stop thinking immediately. Many students find Guitar Hero helpful.
- Remove all caffeinated beverages from the immediate vicinity.
- Sleep. If problems still persist, contact campus healthcare.

It should be noted that despite the fact that scum pond appears liquid, its contents are flammable and will actually accelerate the rate of combustion. Swimming is not encouraged.



Attack ad dispute - “It’s ours” says both parties

James Zhou  
All Politicians are Slime...Except Me...

The latest political attack ad aired, where the unseen candidate blasts his opponent for inexperience and ignorance of the important issues while promising change and economic relief, is claimed by both parties as their work. Due to an unfortunate mix-up in editing room, there is only static at the end of the ad, where there normally would be the line: “I’m [Name] and I support this message.”

Obama campaign worker and independent film maker, Eddie Novax, claimed to have personally worked on the ad in question. “That one is definitely ours. I specifically remember putting in that bit about how the McCain camp’s ideas for restoring our economy are grounded in unfounded and unproven principles that will no doubt bring further ruin to our country. Obama is a fresh face to the old political scene and he will bring a fresh new perspective to Washington. If elected as President, he will change things significantly, in a manner best left loosely described. Also, I hate McCain. And Texas. Nothing good comes from Texas. Except people I happen to like, who also happen to be from Texas through no fault of their own.”

McCain campaign worker and religious film maker, Edward Novak, claimed to have personally worked on the ad in question. “That one is definitely ours. I specifically remember putting in that bit about how the Obama camp’s ideas for restoring our economy are grounded in unfounded and unproven principles that will no doubt bring further ruin to our country. McCain will bring knowledge and bipartisanship to the office of the President and as the Original Maverick ©2008, he is great at upsetting the norm and everyone else. Also, I hate poor people. Unless they are religious. Except in the case of Obama supporters who are also poor and religious. I really hate those guys.”

In less important news, the campaign to elect Ron Paul has also claimed credit for the ad, but we have elected to ignore him.

Here at the Flipside, we're all about outside interference. Story ideas, constructive criticism, legal concerns, destructive criticism, gnome whereabouts, free food, and any other random ridiculousness...Whatever it is, please, by all means, e-mail it to us here at [flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:flipside@rose-hulman.edu) Thank you!

Wacky prof quotes

“When asked how I knew how to do that, I told him, ‘I’ve seen it in movies!’” — Dr. Livesay. For a fun game, try and make-up what she said she did.

“I’ve found a club in which I can stab students” — Dr. VanSchoiack. Dear God, I’m terrified and officially apologize for any past and future wrongdoings.

“If you’re not into porn, who needs it [a computer.] Although occasionally you’ll find a good airplane website.” — Dr. Sanders, who apparently hasn’t heard of google.

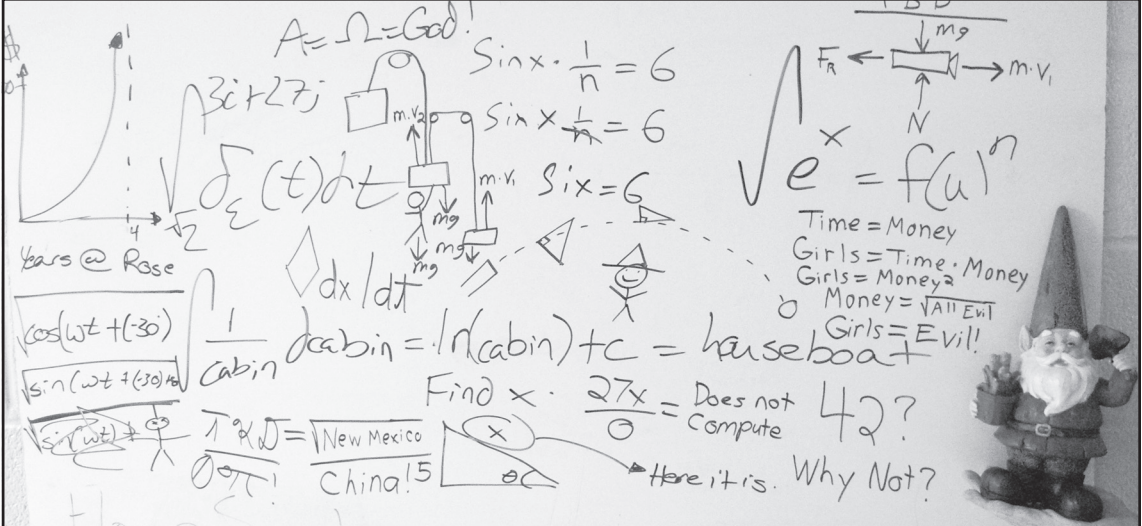
“He really needs to have his ass kicked.” — Dr. Grigg, leader of the new Rose-Hulman mob. Watch out.

“LSD was so 60’s” — Dr. Stienstra, who appears to have expanded his knowledge of materials...

“Today we’re doing peyote, again.” — Dr. Clark, what class is that? Sign me up!

“Hey baby, would you like to see my infinite fin?” — Dr. McClellan. Supposedly this is about Heat Transfer. I sure do hope so.

I’m not a rocket scientist...



But I did stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night...